



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Columbia County



### **County characteristics**

- 795 sq. mi., population 52,468 (2000 census)
- Northern half of county is farmland/woodland with major river, streams and wetlands; southern half former prairie, now farmland, interspersed with prairie pothole wetlands
- Waters: 16 warm-water streams, 25 named lakes, 8 cold water streams with quality trout habitat, 2 exceptional resource waters
- 16,456 licensed anglers and 11,338 hunters and trappers reside in Columbia County



### **State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing**

- 21,500 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas, streambank areas, and natural area
- 21,400 acres open to hunting

Our Wildlife and Fisheries lands are operated with license dollars. You can locate DNR properties for all your outdoor activities at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### **Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you**

1 Wildlife biologist, 1 Wildlife technician; 1 Fisheries biologist, 1 Fisheries technician; 2 Conservation Wardens; 2.25 Customer Service representatives Office: W7303 Hwy CS, Poynette, Poynette Game Farm Manager and 6 Technicians Game Farm: N3344 Stebbins Rd, Poynette  
Fisheries staff also serves Sauk County

### **Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars**

- Assist private landowners with native prairie grassland seedings (1000+ acres) via Conservation Reserve Program contracts
- Wetland restoration on public lands (Peter Helland Wildlife Area 200+ acres, Pine Island Wildlife Area 20+ acres)
- Respond to wildlife damage deer complaints, monitor for wildlife diseases particularly Chronic Wasting Disease and West Nile Virus
- Establish safe upstream and downstream fish passage for the Prairie du Sac dam on the Wisconsin River
- Protect critical habitat and provide fishing access by purchasing land and easements
- Wardens patrol the entire county for illegal hunting, trapping and fishing activities.
- Monitor fish populations, angler and commercial fish harvest, and evaluate harvest regulations and stocking quotas for the scientifically based fisheries management program
- Implemented trout stream habitat restoration projects on Rowan Creek, Rocky Run Creek, and Lodi Creek via brushing, rip-rap bank slopes, and installing in-stream boom covers

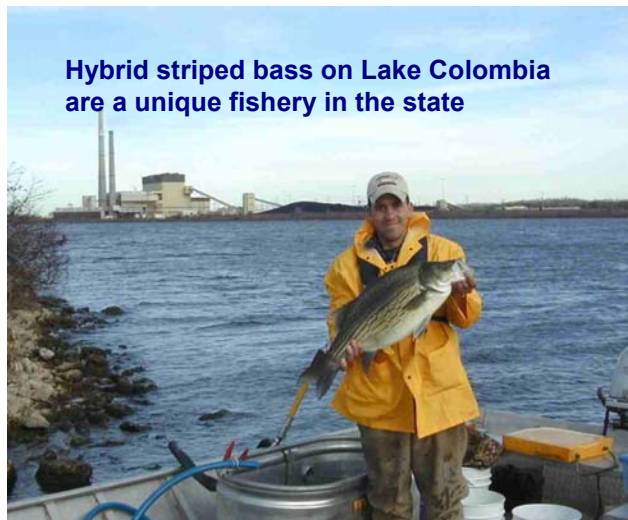
- Manage DNR lands by posting public hunting and fishing areas; establish and maintain parking lots, boat landings, hunting/fishing access trails, buildings, and equipment
- Conservation wardens have assisted Columbia County Sporting Alliance to promote youth activities via annual youth pheasant hunt, and annual youth outdoor day

### ***County Conservation Snapshots***

- 21 waterway access sites
- 28 DNR license agents supported
- 76 Hotline Complaints responded to by wardens
- 11 Deer and Turkey registration stations set up to provide for 4 distinct seasonal registration needs

### ***Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary***

- 5 lakes are stocked with 150,000 fish
- 7 streams are stocked with 48,400 brown and rainbow trout
- State Game Farm at Poynette raises 59,500 pheasants for day-old chick clubs and 57,200 roosters for stocking and hunting opportunities on wildlife areas throughout the state
- 4 Wildlife Areas in the county are stocked with 2,900 roosters



### ***County Success Stories***

- Establish grassland nesting habitat for waterfowl, pheasant, turkey, and songbird reproduction with funding assistance from conservation partners (Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Wisconsin Wetlands Assn.)
- Lake Columbia is stocked with 6,000 3-inch hybrid striped bass each year thanks to funding from Alliant Energy. The Lake Columbia "striper" population is the only one in Wisconsin and one of only a few fisheries like it in the upper Midwest.
- Over past 12 years via "Wetland Reserve Program" DNR and Natural Resource Conservation Service have restored 5,760 acres of previously drained wetlands at 57 sites.
- Manage lake sturgeon population in Lower Wisconsin River / Lake Wisconsin

### ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

***Want to Learn More? Go to [dnr.wi.gov/invest](http://dnr.wi.gov/invest)***

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